

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 065691/0246

RECEIVED

AUG 29 2002

Group Art Unit: 1636

Examiner: S. PAPPU

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Inter patent application of

Abine ABINA

Serial No. 09/920,902

Filed: August 03, 2001

Title: METHOD OF MODULATING NEUTRALIZING ANTIBODIES FORMATION IN MAMMALS, AND USES THEREOF IN GENE THERAPY, ANIMAL TRANSGENESIS AND IN FUNCTIONAL INACTIVATION OF AN ENDOGENOUS PROTEIN(S)

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This communication responds to an office action dated April 24, 2002, concerning the above-referenced patent application. By virtue of the accompanying petition and payment of extension fees, the present deadline for response is August 24, 2002. No other fees are believed due, but the PTO is authorized to invoice account No. 190741 for any charges deemed necessary. Please amend the application as follows:

**In the Claims:**

1. (Amended) A method of inhibiting in a mammal formation of neutralizing antibodies directed against a heterologous protein comprising co-administering to said mammal, an agent in an amount sufficient to deplete or inhibit at least some antigen presenting cells of said mammal, and a heterologous protein and/or a nucleic acid sequence encoding said heterologous protein, said agent being administered prior to or simultaneously with said heterologous protein and/or nucleic acid sequence, thereby inhibiting the production of neutralizing antibodies against said heterologous protein.

5. (Amended) A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said antigen presenting cells are antigen presenting cells located in the liver of said mammal.